



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy

Floor Statement

Floor Speech on Introduction of Deterring and Defeating Rocket and Missile Threats to Israel

Act of 2018

February 27, 2017

Mr. Speaker:

Today I am filing a bipartisan bill to ensure our ally Israel has adequate missile defenses.

Threats to Israel come from Hezbollah in Lebanon; the Assad regime in Syria; Hamas in Gaza; and Iran. Each has an arsenal that can target Israel.

The U.S. and Israel recently signed an agreement that the U.S. will provide Israel with \$500 million dollars a year in missile defense funding, and that Israel can seek additional support when the two nations agree “exceptional circumstances” exist.

My bill would codify this language. This will affirm Congress’s recognition that \$500 million is a floor, not a ceiling—and signal Congress’s intent to provide more funds where conditions on the ground justify it.

My bill reflects the view that the term “exceptional circumstances” should be interpreted in a reasonable—and not overly restrictive—manner.

Providing Israel with additional missile defense funding could deter Israel’s foes from launching an attack and help prevent conflict. Not doing so might leave Israel vulnerable to the growing missile threat arrayed against it.

The goal of my bill is to preserve the peace and to ensure that Israel prevails if its enemies choose the path of war.